

REMARKS

In the Office Action of September 15, 2006, the Examiner stated that Applicants' response filed July 3, 2006, was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because claims 5-9 and 13-18 were not addressed therein. Applicants were given a shortened statutory period for reply of one month. This response is timely filed.

Claim 5 is in independent form and claims 6-9 and 13-18 depend either directly or indirectly therefrom. The rejection of claim 5 is respectfully traversed below.

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application. Each of claims 1-18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,725,927 to Morimoto et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 of the pending application includes the limitations of a reinforcing sheet comprising a fabric cloth having a basis weight of from 10 to 400 g/cm² and a fiber diameter of a fiber constituting the reinforcing sheet from 10 to 150 μ m.

Morimoto et al. does not teach either of these elements. The Examiner asserts that Morimoto teaches a reinforcing sheet having a basis weight of from 10 to 400 g/cm², and points to column 3, lines 42-49 of Morimoto for this teaching. However, Morimoto describes an activated carbon fiber cloth having a surface area of 2000 m²/g. The activated carbon cloth is described in Morimoto as the cathode side polarizable electrode. This is not the reinforcing sheet or separator. Instead, this is a cathode (i.e., the functional sheet). Thus, Morimoto does not teach a reinforcing sheet comprising a fabric cloth having a basis weight of from 10 to 400 g/cm².

In addition, claim 1 of the pending application includes the limitation of the fiber diameter of a fiber constituting the reinforcing sheet from 10 to 150 μ m. The Examiner again points to column 3, lines 42-49 of Morimoto for this teaching. Morimoto does not teach this element. Instead, Morimoto teaches a separator made of a non-woven fabric having a

0.4 mm thickness. 0.4 mm is equal to 400 μm . This is far outside of the claimed range of 10 to 150 μm .

Independent claim 5, likewise, stands rejected in view of Morimoto. Morimoto discloses electric double layer capacitors where the following are overlaid over one another: an activated carbon fiber cloth as a cathode side polarizable electrode; a separator made of non-woven fabric; and an activated carbon fiber cloth as an anode side polarizable electrode. In other words, the separator is interposed between the activated carbon fiber cloths (see column 3, lines 46-49 of Morimoto). The separator is simply placed or interposed between the two electrodes. The separator in Morimoto only separates the electrodes, it does not act as a reinforcing sheet.

Most importantly, claim 5 includes the limitation of a reinforcing sheet being bonded to the electrode by lamination. This is not taught in Morimoto. The Examiner cites column 3, lines 42-49 for this teaching. However, this passage addressed only the construction of the polarizable electrode. Specifically, this portion of the specification provides only that the electrode is "obtained by adding a binder such as polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) to activated carbon powder, rolling the mixture to form a sheet and, if necessary, subjecting the sheet to stretching treatment...". Column 3, lines 42-49 disclose only the overlaying of three layers. Morimoto, thus, discloses only a non-laminated separator sheet.

The separator of Morimoto is not a reinforcing sheet. Likewise, it is not laminated to or otherwise bonded to the electrode. Morimoto does not anticipate claim 5.

The remaining claims all depend from either claim 1 or claim 5 and, likewise, are not anticipated by Morimoto.

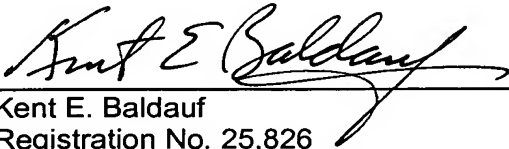
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For at least the foregoing reasons, Morimoto does not anticipate the pending claims. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-18 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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